



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ODESSA DOCTOR CHARGED WITH HEALTH CARE FRAUD

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in Midland, Texas, a Federal grand jury returned an indictment charging 53-year-old Athar Niaz Rana, owner and operator of the Odessa Allergy Clinic, with defrauding federally-funded and private health insurers.

The indictment alleges that between January 1998 and May 28, 2003, the defendant implemented a scheme to defraud Medicaid as well as private health insurers like Blue Cross/Blue Shield by fraudulently billing for services rendered. The defendant routinely claimed that he performed more tests on children 24 months and younger than he in fact performed. During the time frame specified, the defendant submitted false claims for reimbursement for allergy tests totaling over \$83,000 to Medicaid and Blue Cross/Blue Shield. The indictment also seeks a monetary judgement of \$26,445.45 against the defendant.

Upon conviction, Rana faces up to 10 years in Federal prison and a maximum \$250,000 fine.

This case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This case is being prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney Mark Roomberg.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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